

SANTA ROSA COUNTY Chamber of Commerce

—AND—

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

Phone: (850) 623-2339

5247 Stewart Street
Milton, FL 32570

October 9th, 2014

Mr. Tom Wheeler
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Support for the merger of AT&T and DirecTV

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

This letter expresses the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce's strong support for the merger of AT&T and DirecTV. Our support for this merger stems from the crucial importance that modern high-speed broadband has for our efforts to attract investment and employers for our businesses. Santa Rosa County is this region's economic engine, boasting a business mix that includes high-tech, biomedical, service, environmental and agriculture. And having quality Internet coverage for homes and businesses has been important to our economic success.

We also recognize that, as with any dynamic industry, our high-speed broadband access must continue to expand and improve. AT&T and DirecTV have pledged that if they are allowed to merge, they will be able to bring the latest in Internet technologies in Florida. This will help us continue to sustain an attractive business climate, including improving our workforce development.

Workforce development is especially important to us in urging approval of the AT&T/DirecTV merger. First, workforce development is a cornerstone of a successful economy. Second, expanding new high-speed Internet access is conducive to helping people, especially younger workers; improve their training and workplace skills. This includes work readiness, quality early childhood education, K-12 education and post-secondary excellence.

Better, faster Internet access for our region means more residents will be able to access all of these education opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our Chamber's insights on why the AT&T merger with DirecTV is important for our community's continued success.

At Your Service,


Donna S. Tucker, Executive Director